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# REPORT

—OF THE—

# CONFERENCE OF THE CLERGY

OF THE

## DIOCESE OF CHATHAM,

—ON—

OCTOBER 19TH, 1882.

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# REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Of the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese of Chatham, N. B., called by Circular Letter of His Lordship, dated September 27th, 1882, in order to take into consideration the financial condition of the Diocese, and held in the Episcopal Residence on October 19th, 1882. His Lordship, the Bishop presiding, and the Rev. W. Varrily acting as Secretary.

There were present, besides the Bishop, the Very Rev. Thos. F. Barry, Vicar General, the Rev. Fathers Pelletier, Nugent, O'Leary, Morrisy, Allard, Babineau, Carter, Varrily, S. J. Doucet, Richard, T. J. Bannon, Dixon, Joseph Doucet, Edward Bannon, Trudel, Hilarion Doucet, Joyce, D'Amour, Boucher, McDonald, and Fitzgerald.

His Lordship commenced the first Session of the Conference by expressing his joy and satisfaction at the success and edifying results of the Pastoral Retreat just concluded. He dwelt particularly on the spirit of union and fraternal feeling that distinguished the priests of the Diocese, and he hoped that this excellent spirit would continue to animate them in the future, as it had in the past. He then made a detailed statement of the financial condition of the Diocese, since the fire up to the present. The statement written on the day before the fire and read at the Conference held immediately after the fire, on the 14th of February, 1878, shewed the diocesan debt then due to be $30,000; and to provide for the liquidation of that, and also to form a fund of about $20,000, with which to commence the projected cathedral, was the intended object of that clerical Conference, as stated in the Re-

port thereof. But the calamitous fire, which on that same morning had swept out of existence the Church, College and Episcopal Residence, created a new necessity which naturally absorbed all their attention and efforts, since then up to the present, to the exclusion of the first mentioned object of that Conference. The statement of receipts and expenditures in rebuilding what was burned, was published in the printed Report of the Building Committee, dated April 17, 1879, by which it appeared, that, in rebuilding, a balance of $6,000 expended over the receipts, at the time of suspending work, remained unpaid This, added to the original debt, made the total $36,000. Of that amount about $10,000 has since been paid, besides paying the cost of finishing the Episcopal residence, etc., to the value of about $5,000. The object then of the deliberations of the present Conference was to devise just and practical means to meet this remaining debt of $26,000.

Having concluded his statement, the meeting was adjourned until after dinner.

On reassembling, each of the priests in the order of seniority, after the Vicar General, expressed his opinion on the matter under consideration. All were of one mind as to the advisability and desire of taking efficient steps to discharge, or at least diminish, the debt. But as to the best mode of effecting this object there was considerable divergence of opinion among the members of the Conference. Finally, after a long and thorough discussion of the subject, which was protracted, with the exception of an adjournment for supper, to a late hour in the night, the meeting concurred in the plan enunciated in the following resolution, which was adopted by a large majority: "That the priests outside of the Cathedral Parish, Chatham, accept for themselves and their missions as at present es-

tablished, the equitable apportionment of about $20,000 of the Diocesan debt, payable in four years from this date, in equal yearly instalments ; the means and mode of collection to be entirely optional with the respective pastors and people, subject, as a matter of course, to the approbation of his Lordship the Bishop.

The Bishop having withdrawn at the desire of the meeting, a committee of the whole was next formed, with the Very Rev. the Vicar General in the chair, to distribute, as equitably as it could practically be done, among the missions of the Diocese, the above mentioned amount of the debt assumed.

The following list was made and agreed upon in committee. The amounts therein set opposite their respective names were assumed by them for the missions they then represented, as a debt binding in honor upon priests and people.

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## LIST OF DISTRIBUTION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Very Rev. T. F. Barry, V. G., Caraquet, | $ 1,200.00 |
| Rev. Joseph Pelletier, St. Francis, | 900.00 |
| Rev. J. J. O'Leary, Grand Falls, | 900.00 |
| Rev. W. A. Morrisy, Bartibogue, | 600 00 |
| Rev. T. Allard, Eel River, | 250.00 |
| Rev. Jos. A. Babineau, Tracadie, | 800.00 |
| Rev. John Carter, Renous, | 1,200.00 |
| Rev. W. Varrily, Bathurst Village, | 1.050.00 |
| Rev. S. J. Doucet, Pokemouche, | 700.00 |
| Rev. M. F. Richard, St. Louis, | 1,200.00 |
| Rev. P. W. Dixon, Newcastle, | 1,100 00 |
| Rev. Jos. Doucet, Grand Anse, | 700.00 |
| Rev. Edward Bannon, St. Charles and Richibucto, | 800.00 |
| Rev. Jos. Trudel, Shippegan, | 700.00 |
| Rev. Hilarion Doucet, Bathurst Town, | 800.00 |
| Rev. Michael Joyce, Belledune and Black Point, | 800.00 |
| Rev. C. D'Amour, Edmonston, | 600.00 |
| Rev. A. Boucher, St. Margaret's, etc., | 600.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| REV. J. L. MCDONALD, Dalhousie and Campbellton,..... | 800.00 |

[The following priests were not present at the Conference.]

| | |
|---|---|
| VERY REV. M. EGAN, V. G., Nelson,..... | 700.00 |
| REV. FATHER A. ROBERT, Petit Rocher,..... | 1,200.00 |
| REV. JOS. THEBERGE, Neguac,..... | 500.00 |
| REV. LOUIS GAGNON, St. Isidore,..... | 300.00 |
| REV. L. N. DUGAL, St. Basil,..... | 1,000.00 |
| REV. L. A. LAUMIERE, St. Leonard,..... | 700.00 |
| Total,..... | $20,000.00 |

The work of the committee having been concluded, His Lordship was notified thereof, and having resumed the presidency of the Conference, he was pleased to give his assent and approbation to the general scheme adopted by the meeting, as well as to the apportionment just made in committee. He also warmly thanked the meeting for the earnest and practical manner in which they had dealt with the matter submitted to them.

The Conference was then concluded, as it had been begun, by prayer.

W. VARRILY,
SECRETARY OF CONFERENCE.

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# APPENDIX.

Synopsis of Receipts and Expenditure from the 17th April, 1879 (date of the Public Meeting at which it was resolved to suspend further work on building until what had been done thereon be paid for) to the 8th October, 1882 (the date of the Public Meeting of Building Committee and Parishioners, held recently soon after the Feast of St. Michael, in the Conference Hall, adjacent to the Pro-Cathedral, Chatham, N. B.)

1882.

September 29—Amount received for Building

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fund since last Report (April 17, 1879) to date from all sources, nearly, but to make even numbers may be expressed as, ..... | | $15,000.00 |

Which has been expended as follows :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Paid debt on new building due on suspending work, April 17, 1879, | $6,000.00 | |
| Paid for work done since then in enlarging barn, transporting old house, and finishing Episcopal residence, ..... | 5,000.00 | |
| Paid reduction of original debt from $30,000.00 due before the fire to $26,000.00, amount now due, ..... | 4,000.00 | |
| | | $15,000.00 |

Resume of total receipts and expenditure of the Building Funds from the date of the Fire, Feb. 14th, 1878, up to December 15th, 1882.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1879, April 17— | Total amount of money contributions received up to the present date, acknowledged in the printed report of Collectors and Committee, ..... | $23,949.71 |
| | Value of free labor and material donated and employed in the work of rebuilding, as detailed in the aforesaid Report, ..... | 6,617.30 |
| 1879, April 17— | Surplus Expenditure over the Receipts, in rebuilding, as mentioned in the aforesaid Report, ..... | 6,000.00 |
| | Total, ..... | $36,567.01 |
| 1882—Oct. 8,— | Expended since the work was resumed, up to date, in finishing Episcopal residence, &c., &c., ..... | 5,000.00 |
| Dec. 20,— | Continuation of the same expenditure to date, about ..... | 432.99 |
| | Total expended in rebuilding after the fire to date, ..... | $42,000.00 |
| | Paid part of old debt, ..... | 4,000.00 |
| | Total value of work done and paid for since the fire up to date, ..... | $46,000.00 |

T. J. BANNON,

TREASURER OF BUILDING FUND.